

ciated with the name of Weir Mitchell, which has been found so efficient in dealing with other neurasthenic conditions, is equally applicable to the early stages of mental disorder. It is not, of course, to be regarded as a panacea; but there is good reason to regard it as an essential element in the treatment which is most likely to benefit the great majority of such cases. Active exercise and occupation are no doubt invaluable in the treatment of many cases of mental disorder, but their chief use is either in cases which have not reached the stage when hospital treatment is desirable, or in cases which have passed that stage and have become suitable for treatment in an asylum. Recent experience has shown also that many of the benefits formerly supposed to be obtainable only by voluntary exercise can be better obtained by massage and similar expedients included in the Weir Mitchell method. This method, generally known among alienists as 'bed treatment,' has for many years been growing steadily in favor, chiefly under the influence at first of Guislain, of Ghent, who strongly insisted on its value in the treatment of melancholia, and more recently of Ludwig Meyer, of Göttingen, who advocated its more general use, and its efficiency is now widely recognized among asylum physicians in this country.

"The practical conclusion which, I think, we are justified in drawing from these considerations is that such asylum adjuncts as workshops, exercise-gardens, cricket-fields, and other arrangements not usually found in general hospitals would be unnecessary in connection with the proposed wards. . . . Another late development has brought wards for mental diseases more into line with ordinary hospital wards than they formerly were. This is the introduction of nursing by women in male wards of asylums. In regard to this I shall content myself with a reference to the example of the wards for mental diseases in the general hospital at Copenhagen, where the nursing staff is almost entirely female, and to the position of the matter in the Stirling District Asylum. In that asylum the chief officer on the male side under the medical staff is a lady superintendent. Out of a total of three hundred and fifty male patients, one hundred and fifteen, or nearly a third, are during the daytime entirely under the care of female nurses, and this third includes the great majority of the male patients suffering from acute forms of mental disorder. Sixty-seven of the male patients are at present under the care of female nurses both night and day. I have already indicated that hydrotherapy is useful in some early cases. To provide for this, however, it would only be necessary that a suitably fitted bath-room should be attached to the wards; and in regard to the importance of this treatment I may refer you to a valuable article on the subject by Professor Kraepelin, of Heidelberg, in the *Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatrie* for December last."

These statements by a man of great authority and long practical experience make clearer than any words of mine could the sort of general hospital care desired for the insane, and whose promotion will, I believe, engage the attention and coöperation of the body of trained nurses. Very sincerely yours,

JULIA C. LATHROP.

ROCKFORD, ILL., September 12, 1902.

DEAR EDITOR: I have found so many missing nurses from the list published by you several months ago that I ask you once more to favor me. Letters to the following nurses have been returned:

Miss Lena L. Konkle, Miss Mary A. Powell, Miss Mary Stines, Miss Anna D. Schultze, Miss Margaret Scheffer, Miss K. L. McDonnell, Miss Laura E. Yea-

mans, Miss Katharine Matthewson, Mrs. Alexis Wilbur-Grey, Miss Alicia Mackenzie, Miss Mary B. Thompson.

Also these published before: Miss Anna McCreary, Miss Janie McNeill, Miss Alice McManus, Miss Mary C. Menenger, Miss Eva Penn, Miss Minnie Willand, Miss Susan B. Houghton, Miss Mary B. Hill.

"Yours very truly,

HARRIET CAMP LOUNSBERY,

Secretary Order Spanish-American War Nurses.

DEAR EDITOR: Recently there was published in the daily papers an account of a nurse giving an injection of carbolic acid instead of oil to a typhoid patient, thereby causing excruciating suffering and the consequent death of the patient.

Since reading the above it has been in my mind frequently, and while this is offered in no spirit of criticism, or from any desire to publish the circumstance, still, should it not cause both nurses and teachers of nurses to place even greater emphasis upon all possible precautions.

One cannot refrain from wondering whether, in this case, the label was looked at before the contents of the bottle were turned out; also, why did the nurse not detect the acid through her sense of smell?

Let the explanation be what it may, all must agree that these things must not occur through any failure on the part of the instructor of nurses to use every possible means to teach them extreme caution early in their training.

N. E. C.

DEAR EDITOR: I read with much interest the letter written by M. Helena McMillan in the September edition of your JOURNAL. It certainly showed much thought, energy, and enthusiasm. I agree with the writer that the only educational salvation is to have the pupil nurses taught by nurses. But why have her away from the hospital? Couldn't there be a faculty of nurses to teach in their respective hospitals, just as the medical students are taught? Certainly, such subjects as materia medica, cooking, general nursing, obstetrics, anatomy, physiology, and hygiene could be taught by capable nurses. I have watched with keen interest for the past five years the nurses from the large general hospitals to the small sanatoriums, and have yet to find a single candidate for graduation who failed to pass. My contact with nurses for the past six or eight years has convinced me that it is not because they are the brightest and most studious of all students. Is it because their examinations are very simple, or is it because they are treated merely as a joke, a play-toy, by the examining physician?

Are they all allowed to pass and given a diploma to advertise their school, whether they have taken a creditable examination or not?

Will someone answer?

V. V., Richmond, Va.

DEAR EDITOR: There is much sympathetic interest expressed in the pages of the JOURNAL about the nursing of the insane. I would like to say that I am sure that a fine field of work is opening in that line for nurses who have the interest and courage to train for it.

It is a work that requires not only intelligence, but the finest elements of character. It is not ordinary patience and goodness that will adequately meet the demands of constant association with deranged minds. There has been great improvement in the care of the insane, but the new régime of non-restraint,